



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Firefighters Quest for Burn Survivors**



**SANTA BARBARA, CA – 5/8/12**

On Thursday, May 10, 2012, from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm, Firefighters Quest for Burn Survivors will be hosting their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Quest Rally, traveling throughout Santa Barbara County. The men and women of the Santa Barbara City Fire Department will proudly be a part of the relay. The day will start in Santa Maria and finish with a Santa Maria style BBQ at the Santa Barbara City Drill Tower. The Quest Rally occurs each year in May. During this event, the Quest Rally will be making stops at local area fire departments, dispatch communications centers and the Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol who will be making donations. The donations received are distributed on behalf of each donor to local burn centers and foundations as well as burn survivors and their families. The Santa Barbara County Quest Rally is part of a weeklong event covering several inland and southern California counties. Last years' event raised over \$100,000. "Firefighters Quest for Burn Survivors" is a non-profit organization managed by firefighters and civilians who volunteer their services and are dedicated to assist those that have been affected by burn injuries.

Burn injuries are devastating, and the majority take a lifetime to heal. The physical and emotional pain the victims suffer is something firefighters see on a regular basis. As a result, the organization was founded in 1996 following the Southern California Malibu Brush Fire in which six firefighters were injured due to burns received while being entrapped in a "Firestorm". Glendale, CA firefighter Bill Jensen received the most serious life threatening burns sustaining third degree burns to 70% of his body. After three months of surgeries, care and treatment and the miraculous efforts of those who cared for him, Bill beat the 5% chance of survival and was released from the burn center on his birthday. Today, Bill along with the other firefighters injured that day, are well on their ways back to "normal" lives.

Through Bill's experience and that of other burn survivors, it has been noted that while the patients care and treatment is being managed and monitored by doctors and nurses, it is usually the families whose lives are thrown into disarray. Through the efforts of this organization, support ranges from family and patient visits to

providing material and/or monetary donations to the patients and/or immediate family to assist during the critical time of recovery.

The Santa Barbara Area Quest Rally Coordinator is Howard Orr. He can be reached at (805) 794-5102 for further event information.

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